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University Relations

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**Final Community Meal of academic year to feature Italian fare**

*Summary: The project serves free, warm, made-from-scratch meals each month, open to all members of the Stevens County community.*

(April 18, 2011)-Morris Community Meal will be highlighting Italian food at the Morris Senior Community Center for April's Community Meal on April 18, 2011. The project serves warm, made-from-scratch meals each month, which are open to all members of the Stevens County community. This month, ongoing volunteers will collaborate with Bello Cucina and Morris Area Student Leaders to serve pasta. Additional sponsors for April's meal are Pomme de Terre Food Co-op and Willie's Supervalu.

Community Meal is open to every member of the Stevens County community and entirely free of charge. Food options for people with special diets, such as gluten-free, diabetic, vegan and vegetarian, are always available, as are child friendly options. Meals are served from 5:30 until 7 p.m. on the last Monday of each month when the University is in session. April is the last gathering of the 2010–2011 academic year. The Morris Senior Community Center is located at 603 Oregon Avenue in Morris.

Since its inception in January 2009, Community Meal has established a reputation for its delicious menus and the warm, welcoming atmosphere that accompanies each meal. The project has come to be a valued event in the community, providing free meals to hundreds of Stevens County residents and opening community space to build bridges and strengthen existing connections. In serving the meal, the sponsors hope to initiate new connections among community members and provide a free warm meal to those who may not normally be afforded one.

Support for monthly Community Meals is provided by a broad coalition of local businesses and organizations. This spring, the collaborating and sponsoring organizations include: Pomme de Terre Food Co-op, Willie's Supervalu, Bello Cucina, Morris Area Student Leaders, Lions International, and UMM's Office of Community Engagement.

Organizers are looking for businesses and community organizations that would like to serve as meal sponsors next year, as well as volunteers to help cook. Community members can come to the Morris Senior Center between 1 and 5 p.m. on the day of the meal to help out, or Sunday night from 4 until 9 p.m. To get involved as a sponsor or volunteer, contact the [Office of Community Engagement](#) at 320-589-6276.

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